

Tekst 5

The Waiting Game

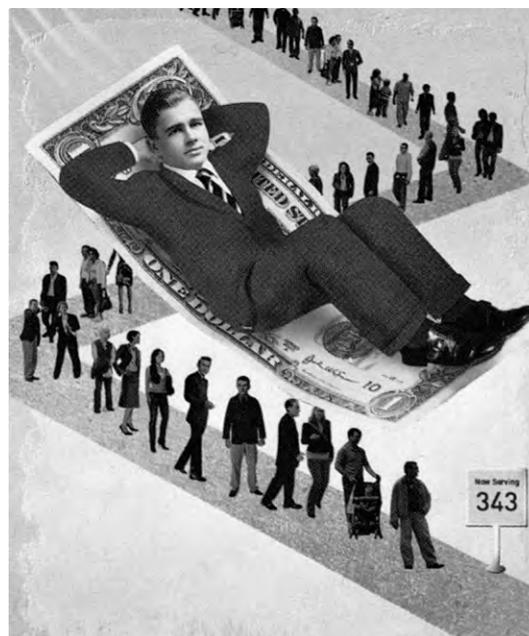
BY STEVE RUSHIN

1 **D**EPENDING ON WHOM YOU believe, the average American will, over a lifetime, wait in lines for two to five years. The crucial word is *average*, as wealthy Americans routinely avoid lines altogether. Once the most democratic of institutions, lines are rapidly becoming the exclusive province of suckers. Poor suckers, mostly.

2 Airports resemble France before the Revolution: first-class passengers enjoy “*élite*” security lines and priority boarding, and disembark before the unwashed in coach – held at bay by a flight attendant – are allowed to foul the Jetway. At amusement parks, too, you can now buy your way out of line. This summer I unhappily watched kids use a \$52 Gold Flash Pass to jump the lines at Six Flags New England, and similar systems are in use in most major American theme parks, from Universal Orlando to Walt Disney World.

3 Flash Pass teaches children a valuable lesson in real-world economics, namely, that the rich are more important than you, especially when it comes to waiting. An NBA¹⁾ player, for example, once said to me, with a chuckle of disbelief, that when playing in Canada – get this – “we have to wait in the same customs line as everybody else.”

4 Almost every line can be breached for a price. In several U.S. cities, early arrivers among the early adopters waiting to buy iPhones



offered to sell their spots in the endless lines. Prospective iPhone purchasers offered to pay “waiters” or “placeholders” to wait in line for them outside Apple stores.

5 Some cultures are not renowned for lining up: the Chinese actually practiced queuing in preparation for the 2008 Olympics. Then again, some cultures are too adept at lining up: a citizen of the former Soviet Union would join a queue just so he could get to the head of that queue and see what everyone was queuing for.

6 And then there is the U.S., where society seems to be cleaving into two groups: Very Important Persons, who don’t wait, and Very Impatient Persons, who do – unhappily. For those of us in the latter group – by coach, without Flash Pass, too poor or proper to pay a placeholder – what do we do? We wait. We are bored.

Time, 2007

not 1 NBA: National Basketball Association

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- 1p 11 How does paragraph 2 relate to paragraph 1?
In paragraph 2 the author
A analyses paragraph 1.
B illustrates paragraph 1.
C modifies paragraph 1.
D undermines paragraph 1.
- 1p 12 Welke van de volgende citaten uit alinea 2 heeft de auteur **niet** ironisch bedoeld?
A “priority boarding”
B “the unwashed”
C “to foul”
- 1p 13 In paragraph 3, what is the example about the NBA player meant to make clear?
A Countries other than the USA generally do not enforce strict rules of equality.
B Famous sports stars would prefer to be treated the same as other travellers.
C Privileged people are quite used to being treated in a special way.
D Systems like Flash Pass do not yet have worldwide coverage.
- 1p 14 What is the function of paragraph 4?
A To expand on the information provided in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.
B To explain the statements made in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.
C To introduce a different view on the subject of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.
D To prove that the claims made in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 are wrong.
- 2p 15 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze juist of onjuist is op grond van de alinea's 5 en 6.
1 De kaartverkoop voor de Olympische Spelen van 2008 leverde lange wachtrijen op.
2 In Amerika wordt voor afleiding gezorgd voor mensen die lang in de rij moeten staan.
3 In sommige landen is het wachten in een rij een alledaags verschijnsel.
4 Zelfs mensen met geld en status moeten soms in een wachtrij staan.
Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “juist” of “onjuist”.